

AUGUST 1966

NUMBER FORTY-FIVE

THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN NEWS

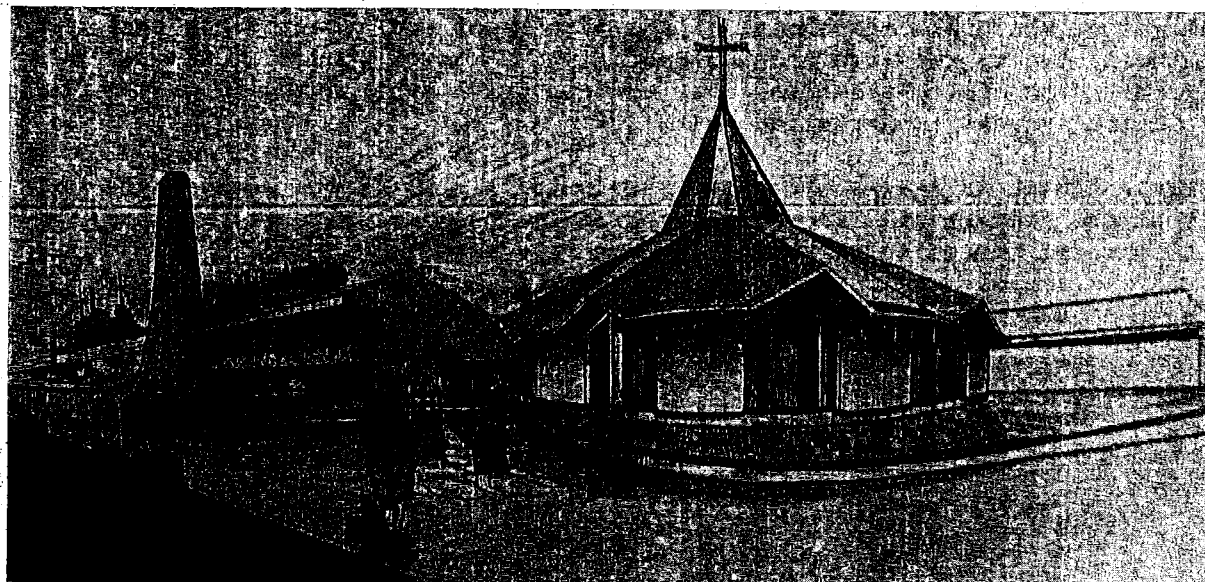
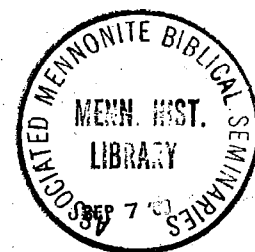
Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.



Remember Colombia

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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Architects' Conception of Bogota Church and Parsonage

BOGOTA CHURCH TO BUILD

The last four months have been months of historic decisions for the Bogota church. In April, the congregation made a decision to purchase property in a new sector of Bogota on which to build the church.



Signing the Contract

In May, the Building Committee was given approval to seek responsible architects to begin drawing up plans for the proposed church. Later in the month the congregation moved to sign a formal contract with an architectural firm in Bogota.

In June, many visits were made to the office of the architects by the Building Committee to study the first drawings. Since the architects are Roman Catholics, many hours have been spent explaining to them Protestant theology and its relationship to church architecture.

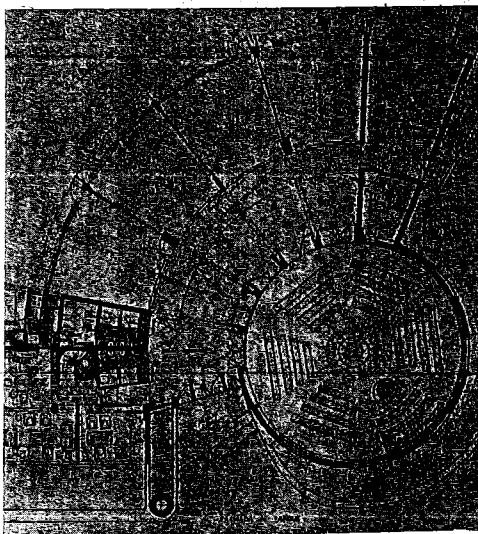
In July, the architects presented the final plans to the congregation. Following the presentation, the members gave unanimous approval to the plans and authorized the Building Committee to seek immediate governmental approval and an official building permit.

The Bogota congregation has made each decision with a deep sense of faith and commitment to build a church "worthy of the name of Jesus Christ." The church's commitment is reflected through monthly building fund offerings which have almost doubled in the last six months. Each member has been encouraged to purchase a square yard of the property. As of August 1, over two thousand Colombian pesos have been given toward the building project through this plan.

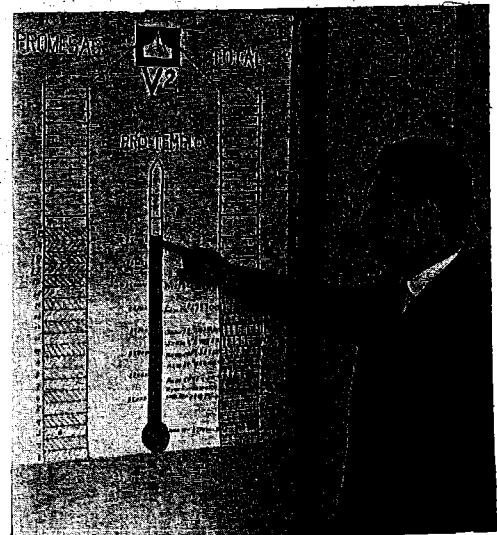
The church building will be located in a new "middle class" sector of the capital city. The church will be readily accessible by bus transportation because of its strategic location between avenues 10 and 14, two of the main avenues of the city. Approximately eighty-five percent of the current membership will be able to travel to the church within ten to fifteen minutes.

The main sanctuary will be round with the communion table and the pulpit in the center, reflecting the biblical concept of the "family of God" sitting together and being spiritually fed by the Word and the Sacrament. A large wooden cross will be suspended from the sanctuary's ceiling over the communion table symbolic of the centrality of Christ's cross to Christian faith.

The Bogota church is taking each new step in faith. It is the hope of the congregation that the project will soon become a reality as many share in "responsible partnership" through concentrated prayer and concrete support.



Basic Floor Plans



Adding to Building Fund

WALTNERS IN COLOMBIA FOR SUMMER



Waltners Visit Bogota

Dr. and Mrs. Erland Waltner with their daughters Kathy and Rose, spent the summer in Colombia, as a part of a three month sabbatical leave from the seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. The Waltner family made their summer home in the rugged but scenic Andes mountains near Cachipay.

During the month of July, Dr. Waltner traveled through several countries of lower South America while the rest of the family remained in Colombia. Among the purposes for their visit to Colombia, was the Waltners' desire to live in a Latin culture and learn by firsthand experience about mission work.

Dr. Waltner, a member of the Board of Missions, through personal contact and conversation with Colombian believers and missionary personnel gained new insight and vision into the practices and problems involved in the work of missions in Colombia. While the summer allowed the Waltners some rest and relaxation, the entire family participated in the various activities of the Colegio in Cachipay and served in the Colombian churches.

MISSIONARY-PASTOR ORDAINED

One of the highlights of the XIV Assembly of the Mennonite Churches in Cachipay took place on Wednesday evening, April 29. On that occasion, George Ediger, missionary-pastor of the Anolaima congregation was ordained to the Christian ministry.

All the national pastors, some church workers, and several missionaries participated in the special service. Dr. Erland Waltner, speaking in the Spanish language, performed the actual ordination followed by the laying on of hands. Rev. Armando Hernandez, pastor of the Ibaguè church, preached the ordination message. The Ladies Chorus of the Bogota church sang a special hymn; "I Was Chosen by God." God had chosen another minister to serve in Christ's Church!



Co-workers Congratulate Rev. Ediger

PASTOR CARO GOES TO COSTA RICA

Pastor Jaime Caro, minister of the La Mesa church, was chosen to represent the Mennonite Churches and Mission of Colombia in a special meeting of the evangelical leaders in San Jose, Costa Rica, during early August. The meeting was held in preparation for the "Evangelism-in-Depth" crusade scheduled for Colombia in 1968.

The Mennonite Mission has already given full support to the special evangelistic effort for Colombia. Pastor Caro will report to the churches concerning the Costa Rican Conference.



Pastor Caro

MISSIONARY-NURSE ON FURLOUGH

Miss Janet Soldner, missionary-nurse of twenty years in Colombia, returned to the U.S.A. in July for a three months furlough. Janet will make her home in Berne, Indiana during the brief furlough before returning to Colombia in early October.

During Janet's absence, Miss Stella Alvarado, a graduate of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay, has assumed the nursing care of the children. Stella has recently completed her nurse's training and has received a diploma from Mercy Hospital in Bogota.



Janet Leads Devotions



New Nurse



Hopi, Mary, Egda, Ethel, Fanny, Ginny, Julia

FINE TEACHING STAFF AT COLEGIO

Rev. Glen Klaassen, director of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay, is highly pleased with the excellent teaching staff which continues to provide a high level of education for the Colombian children at the mission school.

All the primary grades are taught by national teachers who have been taught at the Normal School in Ibague. Miss Julia Schutz, the only missionary on the teaching staff, serves as the principal of the primary school.

AN URUGUAYAN SPEAKS

"Colombia has suffered much during the years of violence, yet I have seen the unwavering testimony of many Protestants. Some have the opinion that Protestantism has developed very slowly in Colombia as compared with other South American countries. While this is true, I can say from my experience here that evangelical mission work is extremely difficult in this country.

"Through many faithful workers, the Word of God has been planted and doors are beginning to open and a harvest will be gathered. The time has arrived, the hour of opportunity is here, and we must take advantage of this hour. We must evangelize!

"After preaching in the Mennonite Churches of Anolaima, Cachipay, La Mesa and Bogota, plus several 'open air' meetings, I realize that which was impossible in the past is now possible. These new possibilities to proclaim the gospel come from God and from those who sacrificed all for the cause of Christ in Colombia.

"This is the beginning of a new day in our churches. I believe Colombia will see a great day of spiritual awakening. We must pray that God will continue to use His servants who are working at present in this country. May God's work endure forever and beginning today my prayer is 'Colombia For Christ!'"



Roberto Preaching

AMARAS A TU DIOS... Y A TU PROXIMO

"Love Your God . . . and Your Neighbor"

XIV CHURCH CONVENTION

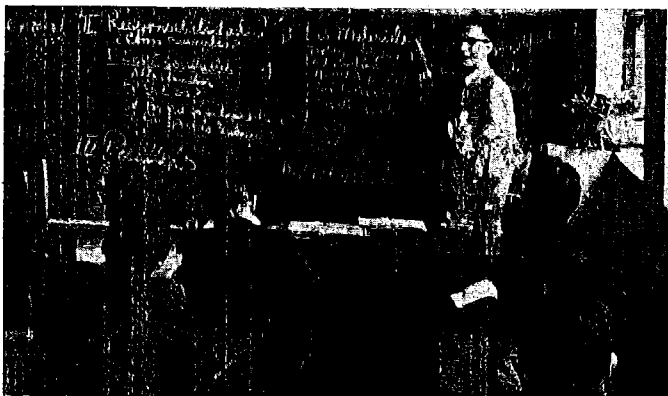
The XIV Convention of the Mennonite Churches met in Cachipay during the last week of July. Throughout the convention the theme, "The Preeminence of Christian Love" was preached, taught and discussed.

Rev. Manuel Casteneda, preacher-evangelist from Cali, brought the evening



messages and Bible studies based on I Corinthians 13. Special classes were held for men, women, and young people discussing some of the practical problems of the Christian life. Much thought was given to what Christian love means for God and neighbor, especially in home, church and community life.

Proclaiming God's Love



Teaching About Loving God and Neighbor

The attendance at the Convention was above average as many families came and remained during the entire retreat. Every extra bed and cot was pressed into service to accommodate the guests.

The general business sessions were held and well attended by official delegates and members of the various churches. On the final day of the Convention six new converts were baptized by Rev. Klaassen. Pastor Jaime Caro, president of the Convention, conducted the Lord's Supper in the final service. Everyone who attended realized anew that "now abides faith, hope, and love but the greatest of these is love."



Singing About God's Love

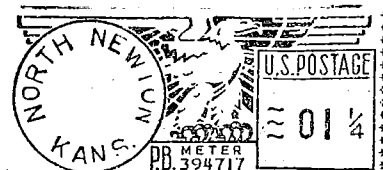


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LEADER MEETS LEADER

Dr. Erland Waltner, president of the Mennonite World Conference, and Rev. Juan Vanegas, a prominent leader in the Confederation of Evangelicals of Colombia exchanged Christian greetings in Cachipay.

Rev. Vanegas expressed his appreciation to Dr. Waltner for his visit to Colombia and his interest in the evangelical Colombian church. Dr. Waltner wished God's blessing upon the duties which Rev. Vanegas performs in behalf of the evangelical Christians of Colombia.



Waltner Meets Vanegas

NEW V. S. COUPLE IN BOGOTA

Richard and Bonnie Nickel from Hillsboro, Kansas arrived in Colombia in June as V.S. workers under the Board of Christian Service. They represent the first V.S. couple to be assigned to serve in Bogota. Beginning in September, they will teach in Colegio Nueva Granda, a bi-national school for both Colombian and American students. The Nickels have become associate members of the Bogota church and are attending and participating in the activities of the congregation. Upon their arrival they entered the University of the Andes for six weeks of intensive Spanish language study.



The Nickels

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRAISE God for the new converts as a result of the United Crusade in Ibague.
PRAISE God for the continuing opportunity to give Colombian children a sound Christian education in our two mission schools in Cachipay and La Mesa.
PRAY that the Lord will keep both national and missionary workers from discouragement when the work is difficult and problems arise.
PRAY that the Lord will call young Colombian Christians into the Lord's service and especially into the pastoral ministry.